

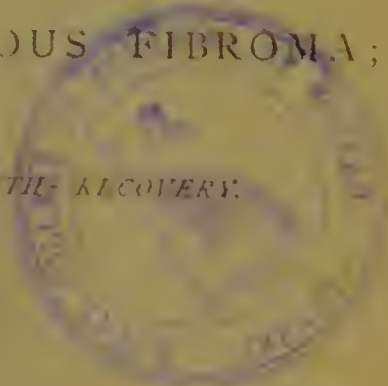
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MOLLUSCUM FIBROSUM

AND

LARGE PENDULOUS FIBROMA;

REMOVAL OF GROWTH- RECOVERY.



BY

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MOLLUSCUM FIBROSUM AND LARGE PENDULOUS FIBROMA.

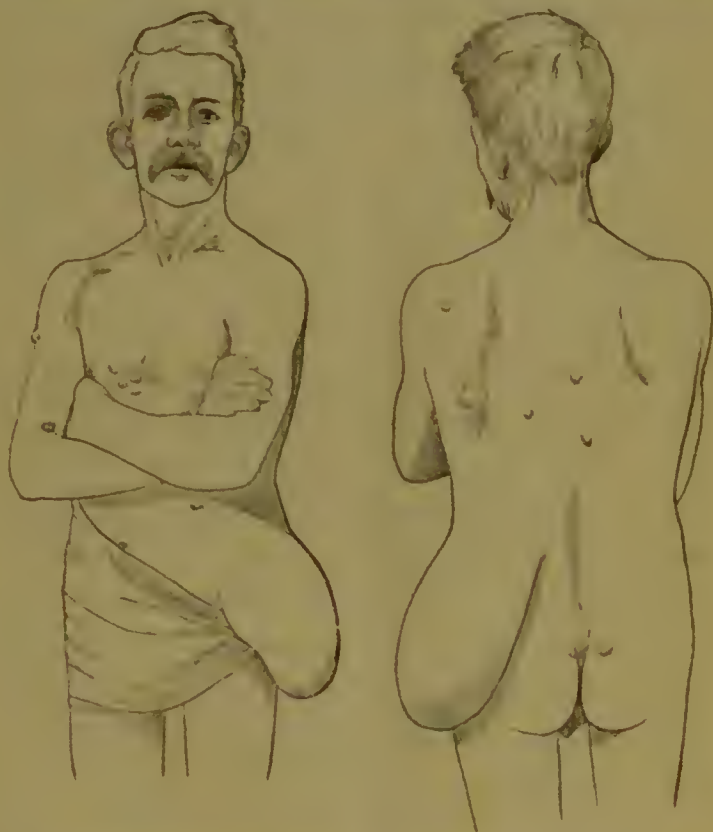
JOHN C —, aged twenty-nine, labourer in a timber yard, was admitted into the Cumberland Infirmary on March 17th, 1886. The patient has never been what is called "quick," and his head has always been very large in proportion to his body. He has had none but ordinary illnesses, with the exception of bronchitis, from which he suffered for the previous three months. He has had from birth a tumour over the left hip, which continued to grow till he was twenty-four, when it ceased growing. In addition to this, he has developed numerous small tumours on various parts of the body, and he has never had any pain except when some of them have suppurated; but this has not occurred often.

On admission the patient was considerably emaciated and suffering from chronic bronchitis. Studding the upper two-thirds of his body were several tumours varying in size from a split pea to a chestnut, with the exception of the

large one about to be described. They were all of them rounded and smooth surfaced, some moving freely beneath the skin, others adherent; many of them had a bluish tint. In two instances these tumours had suppurated and formed abscesses. There was one small tumour behind the left ear, of the size of a split pea; another on the right side of the neck, rather larger; there were several varying in size over the whole back, particularly about the sacrum; some were to be found on the arms and forearms, but none were seen below the trochanters. Situated over the left iliac bone was an enormous pendulous growth, hanging from the tissues about the left crest of the ilium and the left inguinal and lumbar regions. The tumour hung like a satchel, it was ten inches long and about fourteen inches broad at the base. Its surface was superficially ulcerated in patches or exco-riated; it was of considerable inconvenience to the patient, but gave him no pain. (See engravings.)

After being under treatment for four weeks the patient's condition improved, the cough ceased, and the ulcerated surfaces healed; the suppurations in the cellular tissue about the body had dried up, and he had gained flesh. On April 12th the tumour was removed under ether. In order to meet the expected hæmorrhage an iron clamp covered with leather was used, having been specially made by a local ironmonger for the case. It consisted of two long pieces of iron curved on the edge and fastened at pleasure at the two ends by two screws and nuts. The pedicle

having been secured by the clamp close to the iliac crest, the tumour was amputated, and as many vessels as could be seen were tied. After this the clamp was a little relaxed, when many more vessels, seen by the spouting



of blood, were secured, and the clamp was then removed. Considering the enormous number of vessels, very little hemorrhage occurred, as the clamp proved most valuable. The lips of the wound were drawn together with silver

wire and fishing gut, and the dressing consisted of a large wood-wool pad. On April 20th the drainage tubes were removed. A little suppuration had occurred here and there, but the wound was quite healthy. On April 30th the wound was almost entirely healed, and on measurement was found to extend to fourteen inches. On May 12th the patient went to the convalescent hospital at Silloth.

My thanks are due to our excellent house-surgeon, Mr. G. F. Smith, who was with us at that time, not only for the notes of the case, but also for the care he took in getting the clamp fitted. The patient was shown at the Carlisle Medical Society on Jan. 13th of this year. The wound had remained sound, and little or no deformity was visible, except the linear scar. The man was better able to do his work, but his intellectual deficiency was unaltered. The tumour weighed 6 lb., and has been placed in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons (No. 373 C.). In structure it was soft and somewhat pulpy, though firm, and under the microscope was seen to consist of white fibrous tissue with spindle-shaped, oval, and round cells, with here and there some glandular tissue; there was, however, no evidence of any morbid activity of the sebaceous glands.

After the patient left the hospital I made some inquiries concerning his mental defect, and was told by his employer that he would do what he was told and was ordinarily useful, but would never make a skilled workman, as he had no ideas. I mention this because Hilton Fagge (vol. ii.,

page 745) draws attention to Hebra's remark that when molluscum tumours are numerous there is deficiency in mind and body. The engravings were made by Danielsson from photographs, and show the large tumour very well; but many of the small tumours were too minute to delineate, therefore only larger ones are represented.

